

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/561,892

Examiner

William L. Miller

Applicant(s)

KELLY, MICHAEL

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment received 07-09-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22 and 37-53.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date .
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date .
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The substitute specification filed 07-09-2007 has been entered and complies with 37 CFR 1.125(b) and (c).

Drawings

2. The new sheets of drawings, namely sheets 6 and 7, received on 07-09-2007 have been approved by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-22 and 37-53 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 1, Thomas (US#5586679) represents the closest prior art of record. Thomas discloses a coffin 10 having a base portion 25 comprising a plurality (2) of base panels, each base panel being connected to the adjacent base panel by a joint 61 such that each base panel is foldable onto an adjacent base panel; a plurality of side panels 30-31 each connected to the base portion by a joint 64-65 such that each side panel is foldable onto an adjacent base panel; and a lid 120. However, Thomas and the remaining prior art of record fails to show or suggest the coffin as claimed in detail, wherein a plurality of first clips secure the lid with respect to the side panels, wherein when the coffin adopts an assembled state, the lid extends between the side panels, the lid and the clips together supporting the side panels to maintain the coffin in the assembled state. Although it is known to use clips to secure a lid to side panels of a container as evidenced by Elstone (US#6182849, clips 49-52), Kuhn et al. (US#6290064, clips 34), and Johnston et al. (US#5555980, clips 180), the prior art fails to show this arrangement wherein in the assembled

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state the lid extends between the side panels with the lid and the clips together supporting the side panels to maintain the assembled state. In any event, Thomas teaches away from any such modification as the lid extends outside the side panels as opposed to between the side panels via lid side walls 130,131,133,136 which provide hand grips 140,142,144,146 and are designed to extend over base 20.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

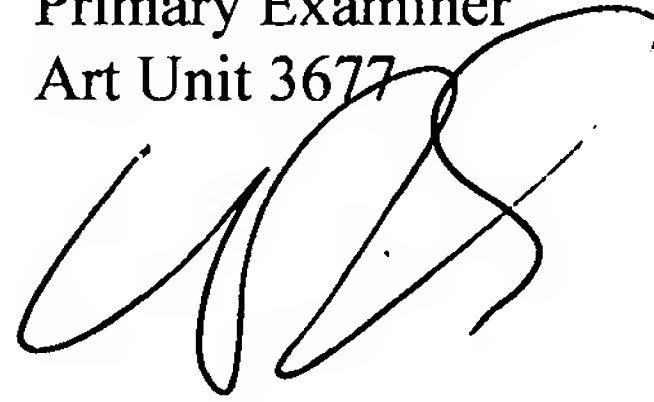
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

William L. Miller
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'WLM', written over the printed name and title of the examiner.

WLM